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EXAMINER

MURPHY, TIMOTHY M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2611

7

DATE MAILED: 05/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/512,306	NAKADA ET AL.
	Examiner Timothy Murphy	Art Unit 2611

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____ . |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>2,3 and 6</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Figures 18-20 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Page 13, line 2, "grogram guide" should be changed to
--program guide--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1 and 17 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1, lines 2-3, "other broadcaster's program guide information" should state: **--other broadcaster's common program guide information--.**

Claim 17, line 1, "program guide information producing in" should state

--program guide information producing apparatus in--.

Appropriate corrections are required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1, 2, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ogawa et al (6,314,571).

In regard to Claim 1, Ogawa discloses a program guide information producing apparatus (Fig. 3, EPG transmitting devices 2a and EPG providing device 2b) for outputting self-produced program guide information (2a outputs own-station EPG data; description of 2a is the same as in Fig. 1 in col. 6, lines 51-53) and **other broadcaster's common program guide information** (2b

outputs all-station (other broadcaster's) EPG data; description of 2b is the same as in Fig. 1 in col. 6, lines 53-57), said program guide producing apparatus comprising a common program guide information producing section (which produces self-produced common program guide information 2a, output own-station EPG; and col. 6, lines 57-60).

In regard to Claim 2, Ogawa discloses the program guide information producing apparatus (2a, 2b) in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a program guide information output section (All-station EPG database 24) which unites said self-produced common program guide information (from 2a) with other broadcaster's common program guide information (from 1), and outputs the united common program guide information (Fig. 3, 24 receives both other broadcaster's common program guide information from 1 and self-produced common program guide information from 2a, and unites both as seen from single output of 24; as seen in Fig. 3 and col. 9, lines 6-37), as claimed.

In regard to Claim 13, Ogawa discloses a program guide information collecting/transmitting system (Fig. 1, EPG data collection and delivery system; col. 6, lines 36-37), wherein each broadcaster (station 2) generates self-produced common program guide information (2a) and transmits (data transmitting section 21) the self-produced common program guide information to said program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus (to EPG data

collection and delivery center 1; col. 7, lines 20-25), said program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus transmits the received self-produced common program guide information of each broadcaster (2, 3, etc.) to other broadcasters (2, 3 or multiple stations 2; col. 21, lines 4-10), and said other broadcasters receive the transmitted self-produced common program guide information of said each broadcaster as common program guide information produced by a different broadcaster (as seen in Fig. 1, each station 2 receives (23; description in col. 7, lines 43-50) all-station EPG data (24)).

In regard to Claim 14, Ogawa discloses the program guide information collecting/transmitting system in accordance with claim 13, wherein said program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus comprises a common program guide information storing section (all station EPG database 12) which administers the self-produced common program guide information transmitted from each said broadcaster (col. 7, lines 26-38).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 3-7 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogawa et al (6,314,571), in view of Chaney (5,841,433).

In regard to Claim 3, Ogawa discloses a program guide information producing apparatus (Fig. 1, 2a, 2b) for outputting self-produced program guide information (2a outputs own-station EPG data; col. 6, lines 51-53) and other broadcaster's common program guide information (2b outputs all-station (other broadcaster's) EPG data; col. 6, lines 53-57), said program guide information producing apparatus comprising a common program guide information storing section which stores common program guide information (all station EPG database 24), said common program guide information being received from a program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus (as seen in Fig. 1, from EPG data collection and delivery center 1).

However, Ogawa fails to provide program guide information to designated time duration in advance, as claimed.

In an analogous art, Chaney teaches transmitting program guide information corresponding to designated time duration (transmitted program guides includes schedules for next hours; col. 5, lines 1-10). This provides the

well-known benefit of providing program guide information for both current and future programs.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Ogawa with transmitting program guide information corresponding to designated time duration, as taught by Chaney, for the benefit of providing program guide information for both current and future programs, as this is a typical feature in all program guide systems.

In regard to Claim 4, Ogawa discloses the program guide information producing apparatus (Fig. 1, EPG transmitting devices 2a and EPG providing device 2b) in accordance with claim 2, further comprising a common program guide information storing section (all station EPG database 24).

However, Ogawa fails to provide program guide information to designated time duration in advance, as claimed.

In an analogous art, Chaney teaches transmitting program guide information corresponding to designated time duration (transmitted program guides includes schedules for next hours; col. 5, lines 1-10). This provides the

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well-known benefit of providing program guide information for both current and future programs.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Ogawa with transmitting program guide information corresponding to designated time duration, as taught by Chaney, for the benefit of providing program guide information for both current and future programs, as this is a typical feature in all program guide systems.

In regard to Claim 5, Ogawa discloses a program guide information producing apparatus (Fig. 1, EPG transmitting devices 2a and EPG providing device 2b) for outputting self-produced program guide information (2a outputs own-station EPG data; col. 6, lines 57-60) and other broadcaster's program guide information (2b outputs all-station (other broadcaster's) EPG data; col. 6, lines 53-55), said program guide information producing apparatus comprising a self-produced information transmitting section (data transmitting section 21), and a program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus (as seen in Fig. 1, to EPG data collection and delivery center 1).

However, Ogawa fails to transmit only the information relating to broadcast time of programs, as claimed.

In an analogous art, Chaney teaches transmitting only the information relating to broadcast time of programs ("change number" byte indicates unscheduled (time) change; col. 6, lines 47-57). This provides the benefit of allowing a program guide in a receiver to adjust quickly to an unscheduled program change (col. 2, line 59 – col. 3, line 4).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Ogawa with transmitting only the information relating to broadcast time of programs, as taught by Chaney, for the benefit of allowing a program guide in a receiver to adjust quickly to an unscheduled program change, thereby providing an efficient program guide system.

In regard to Claim 6, Ogawa discloses a program guide information producing apparatus (Fig. 1, 2a, 2b) for outputting self-produced program guide information (2a outputs own-station EPG data; col. 6, lines 51-53) and other broadcaster's common program guide information (2b outputs all-station (other broadcaster's) EPG data; col. 6, lines 53-57), and receiving common program guide information from a program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus (Fig. 1, from 1).

However, Ogawa fails to provide a version number adding section which adds a version number to common program guide information, as claimed.

In an analogous art, Chaney teaches providing a version number adding section which adds a version number to program guide information ("change number" is a version number for the master program guide; col. 6, lines 64-67). This provides a receiver with an indication byte for determining if the currently stored program guide requires a change (col. 6, lines 57-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Ogawa with including a version number adding section which adds the version number to program guide information and also to other broadcaster's program guide information, as taught by Chaney, for the benefit of providing a receiver with an indication byte for determining if the currently stored program guide requires a change, thereby providing a technique for indicating when changes are necessary in a program guide system.

In regard to Claim 7, Ogawa discloses the program guide information producing apparatus (2a, 2b) in accordance with claim 2.

However, Ogawa fails to provide a version number adding section which adds a version number to common program guide information, as claimed.

In an analogous art, Chaney teaches providing a version number adding section which adds a version number to program guide information ("change number" is a version number for the master program guide; col. 6, lines 64-67). This provides a receiver with an indication byte for determining if the currently stored program guide requires a change (col. 6, lines 57-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Ogawa with including a version number adding section which adds the version number to program guide information and also to other broadcaster's program guide information, as taught by Chaney, for the benefit of providing a receiver with an indication byte for determining if the currently stored program guide requires a change, thereby providing a technique for indicating when changes are necessary in a program guide system.

In regard to Claim 15, Ogawa discloses the program guide information collecting/transmitting system (Fig. 1) in accordance with claim 14, wherein said each broadcaster (2, 3) transmits the self-produced common program guide

information to said program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus (1), and said program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus causes said common program guide information storing section (Fig. 1, all-station EPG database 12) to store the received self-produced common program guide information transmitted from said each broadcaster (2, 3).

However, Ogawa fails to transmit program guide information corresponding to designated time duration, as claimed.

In an analogous art, Chaney teaches transmitting program guide information corresponding to designated time duration (transmitted program guides includes schedules for next hours; col. 5, lines 1-10). This provides the well-known benefit of providing program guide information for both current and future programs, as this is a typical feature in all program guide systems.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Ogawa with transmitting program guide information corresponding to designated time duration, as taught by Chaney, for the benefit of providing user equipment with program guide information both current and future programs, as this is a typical feature in all program guide systems.

7. Claims 8-10 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogawa et al (6,314,571), in view of Hennig (5,956,455).

In regard to Claim 8, Ogawa discloses a program guide information producing apparatus (Fig. 1, 2a, 2b) for outputting self-produced program guide information (2a outputs own-station EPG data; col. 6, lines 51-53) and other broadcaster's common program guide information (2b outputs all-station (other broadcaster's) EPG data; col. 6, lines 53-57), said program guide information producing apparatus comprising a self-produced information stepwise transmitting section (21) which transmits information when renewed self-produced information is sent to a program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus (modifications sent to EPG data collection and delivery center 1; col. 9, lines 6-37).

However, Ogawa fails to transmit control information prior to other information, said control information being used for audio/video recording preservation in a broadcast receiver, as claimed.

In an analogous art, Hennig teaches transmitting control information relating to broadcast time of programs (VPS schedule page bearing VPS identification codes; col. 6, lines 48-63) prior to other information (transmits a

new VPS schedule page; col. 6, lines 51-55). The control information is used for audio/video recording preservation in a broadcast receiver (show is properly recorded; col. 6, lines 60-63), which provides the benefit of guaranteed recording in a broadcast receiver, despite that the previous or current program's schedule changes, such as from when a program runs overtime and subsequent programs are delayed as a result (as described in col. 6, lines 60-63).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Ogawa with transmitting control information prior to other information said control information being used for audio/video recording preservation in a broadcast receiver, as taught by Hennig, since this provides guaranteed successful recording in a broadcast receiver of all programs even if a particular program runs overtime and all subsequent programs are delayed.

In regard to Claim 9, Ogawa discloses the program guide information producing apparatus (2a, 2b) in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a self-produced information stepwise transmitting section (modifications sent from 21; col. 9, lines 6-37), and a program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus (1).

However, Ogawa fails to transmit control information prior to other information, said control information being used for audio/video recording preservation in a broadcast receiver, as claimed.

In an analogous art, Hennig teaches transmitting control information relating to broadcast time of programs (VPS schedule page bearing VPS identification codes; col. 6, lines 48-63) prior to other information (transmits a new VPS schedule page; col. 6, lines 51-55). The control information is used for audio/video recording preservation in a broadcast receiver (show is properly recorded; col. 6, lines 60-63), which provides the benefit of guaranteed recording in a broadcast receiver, despite that the previous or current program's schedule changes, such as from when a program runs overtime and subsequent programs are delayed as a result (as described in col. 6, lines 60-63).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Ogawa with transmitting control information prior to other information said control information being used for audio/video recording preservation in a broadcast receiver, as taught by Hennig, since this provides guaranteed successful recording in a broadcast receiver of all programs even if a particular program runs overtime and all subsequent programs are delayed.

In regard to Claim 10, the combined systems of Ogawa and Hennig disclose the program guide producing apparatus (Ogawa: 2a, 2b) in accordance with claim 8, wherein said self-produced information stepwise transmitting section transmits only the control information (Hennig: VPS schedule page bearing VPS identification codes; col. 6, lines 48-63) relating to a presently broadcasted program (Hennig: VPS code is assigned to the program; col. 1, lines 62-64) to said program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus (Ogawa: 1) prior to others (Hennig: transmits a new VPS schedule page; col. 6, lines 51-55) among said control information relating to the audio/video recording preservation in the broadcast receiver (Hennig: show is properly recorded; col. 6, lines 60-63).

In regard to Claim 18, the combined systems of Ogawa and Hennig disclose the program guide information producing apparatus (Ogawa: Fig. 1, EPG management and distribution system 1) in accordance with Claim 9, wherein said self-produced information stepwise transmitting section transmits only the control information relating to a presently broadcasted program to said program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus prior to others (Hennig: transmits a new VPS schedule page; col. 6, lines 51-55) among said control information relating to the audio/video recording preservation in the broadcast receiver (Hennig: show is properly recorded; col. 6, lines 60-63).

8. Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogawa et al (6,314,571), in view of Hamilton et al (5,579,055).

In regard to Claim 11, Ogawa discloses a program guide information producing apparatus (Fig. 1, 2a, 2b) for outputting self-produced program guide information (2a outputs own-station EPG data; col. 6, lines 51-63) and other broadcaster's common program guide information (2b outputs all-station (other broadcaster's) EPG data; col. 6, lines 53-57).

However, Ogawa fails to provide a self-produced information checking section which obtains and checks self-produced common information stored in a program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus after said self-produced information is transmitted to said program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus, as claimed.

In an analogous art, Hamilton teaches a checking section which obtains and checks self-produced common information stored in a program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus after said self-produced information is transmitted to said program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus (EPG supplier 18 provides a checksum for verification and requests a command to ISP 16 for checksum error; col. 6, lines 41-51 and col. 8, lines 21-31). This

provides the benefit of verifying proper message transmission (col. 6, lines 47-48).

Consequently, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Ogawa with providing information checking section which obtains and checks self-produced common information stored in a program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus after said self-produced information is transmitted to said program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus, as taught by Hamilton, for the benefit of verifying proper message transmission.

In regard to Claim 12, Ogawa discloses the program guide information producing apparatus in accordance with claim 1.

However, Ogawa fails to provide a self-produced information checking section which obtains and checks self-produced common information stored in a program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus after said self-produced information is transmitted to said program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus, as claimed.

In an analogous art, Hamilton teaches a checking section which obtains and checks self-produced common information stored in a program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus after said self-produced information

is transmitted to said program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus (EPG supplier 18 provides a checksum for verification and requests a command to ISP 16 for checksum error; col. 6, lines 41-51 and col. 8, lines 21-31). This provides the benefit of verifying proper message transmission (col. 6, lines 47-48).

Consequently, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Ogawa with providing information checking section which obtains and checks self-produced common information stored in a program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus after said self-produced information is transmitted to said program guide information collecting/transmitting apparatus, as taught by Hamilton, for the benefit of verifying proper message transmission.

9. Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogawa et al (6,314,571), in view of Kikinis (6,490,725).

In regard to Claim 16, Ogawa discloses a program guide information producing apparatus (Fig. 1, 2a, 2b) for outputting self-produced program guide information (2a outputs own-station EPG data; col. 6, lines 51-53) and other broadcaster's common program guide information (2b outputs all-station (other

broadcaster's) EPG data; col. 6, lines 53-57), said program guide information producing apparatus comprising:

a self-produced information transmitting section (data transmitting section 21); and

a common program guide information receiving section (data receiving section 23).

However, Ogawa fails to provide an inter-station transmitting section which directly transmits information to other broadcasters, and an inter-station receiving section which directly receives information from other broadcasters, as claimed.

In an analogous art, Kikinis teaches inter-station (Fig. 1A, file servers 1,3,5 and 7 are interconnected (col. 3, lines 34-36) in order to send new video clippings to all of the connected servers; col. 4, lines 7-13) transmitting section (Fig. 1B, port 10 or 30 that couple file server 1 with (transmit to) the other file servers on the network; col. 4, lines 37-38) which directly transmits information to other broadcasters (from one server to the other connected servers; col. 4, lines 7-13), and an inter-station receiving section (Fig. 1B, port 10 or 30 that couple file server 1 with (receive from) the other file servers on the network; col. 4, lines 37-38) which directly receives information from other broadcasters (receive video clippings from the other servers on network; col. 5, lines 6-13). This provides the

ability to easily exchange up-to-date information between providers, so that each of the provider's respective clients may obtain the up-to-date information (col. 4, lines 7-33).

Consequently, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Ogawa with an inter-station transmitting section which directly transmits information to other broadcasters, and an inter-station receiving section which directly receives information from other broadcasters, as taught by Kikinis, since it provides an ability to easily exchange up-to-date information between providers, such as program guide information, so that each of the provider's respective clients may obtain the up-to-date information.

In regard to Claim 17, Ogawa discloses a program guide information producing apparatus (2a, 2b) in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:
a self-produced information transmitting section (data transmitting section 21); and
a common program guide information receiving section (data receiving section 23).

However, Ogawa fails to provide an inter-station transmitting section which directly transmits information to other broadcasters, and an inter-station

receiving section which directly receives information from other broadcasters, as claimed.

In an analogous art, Kikinis teaches inter-station (Fig. 1A, file servers 1,3,5 and 7 are interconnected (col. 3, lines 34-36) in order to send new video clippings to all of the connected servers; col. 4, lines 7-13) transmitting section (Fig. 1B, port 10 or 30 that couple file server 1 with (transmit to) the other file servers on the network; col. 4, lines 37-38) which directly transmits information to other broadcasters (from one server to the other connected servers; col. 4, lines 7-13), and an inter-station receiving section (Fig. 1B, port 10 or 30 that couple file server 1 with (receive from) the other file servers on the network; col. 4, lines 37-38) which directly receives information from other broadcasters (receive video clippings from the other servers on network; col. 5, lines 6-13). This provides the ability to easily exchange up-to-date information between providers, so that each of the provider's respective clients may obtain the up-to-date information (col. 4, lines 7-33).

Consequently, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Ogawa with an inter-station transmitting section which directly transmits information to other broadcasters, and an inter-station receiving section which directly receives information from other broadcasters, as taught by Kikinis, since it provides an

ability to easily exchange up-to-date information between providers, such as program guide information, so that each of the provider's respective clients may obtain the up-to-date information.

Conclusion

10. The following are suggested formats for either a Certificate of Mailing or Certificate of Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). The certification may be included with all correspondence concerning this application or proceeding to establish a date of mailing or transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). Proper use of this procedure will result in such communication being considered as timely if the established date is within the required period for reply. The Certificate should be signed by the individual actually depositing or transmitting the correspondence or by an individual who, upon information and belief, expects the correspondence to be mailed or transmitted in the normal course of business by another no later than the date indicated.

Certificate of Mailing

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(Date)

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Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate:

Signature: _____

Please refer to 37 CFR 1.6(d) and 1.8(a)(2) for filing limitations concerning facsimile transmissions and mailing, respectively.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tim Murphy whose telephone number is (703) 305-8144. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 8am – 5pm, and alternating Fridays 8am – 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the senior examiner, Chris Grant can be reached on (703) 305-4755. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


CHRIS GRANT
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Timothy M. Murphy
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2611